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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
**CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

THE MILTON H. GREENE ARCHIVES, ) CASE NO.: CV05-2200-MMM(MC<sub>x</sub>)  
INC., ) [CONSOLIDATED ACTION]  
Plaintiff, )

1 vs.

2  
3 CMG WORLDWIDE, INC., an Indiana  
4 Corporation, and MARILYN MONROE,  
5 LLC, a Delaware Limited Liability  
6 Company, ANNA STRASBERG, an  
7 individual,

8 Defendants.

9  
10 And Consolidated Actions  
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**SUPPLEMENTAL REPLY IN  
SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR  
SUMMARY JUDGMENT FILED  
PURSUANT TO COURT ORDER**

Date: UNDER SUBMISSION

Time: TBA

Place: Courtroom of the Honorable  
Margaret M. Morrow

[[Proposed] Order Lodged Concurrently  
Herewith]

5  
6 **I. SUMMARY OF ARGUMENT**

7 Plaintiffs<sup>1</sup> have chosen to ignore the Court's directive to address the single  
8 issue the Court framed, namely:

9 Whether Marilyn Monroe could transfer through her will a posthumous  
10 right of publicity which she did not own at the time of her death?

11 *Instead, they launch into a re-argument of their statutory construction of*  
12 *Cal.Civ.Code §3344.1 and the effectiveness of the residuary clause to transfer "after-*  
13 *acquired" property, not the question of Marilyn Monroe's capacity to transfer assets*  
14 *she did not own at death.*<sup>2</sup>

15 The proper response to the Court's permitted briefing necessarily begins with a  
16 construction of Ms. Monroe's will. If Ms. Monroe's will reflects an intent to  
17 bequeath only what she owned *at the time of her death*, the inquiry is complete since  
18 she did not own any post-mortem RoP at her death.

19 A secondary inquiry would analyze the laws of New York or California, the  
20 only two (2) states where she was possibly domiciled at the time of her death, to

21 <sup>1</sup> "Plaintiffs" refers to Marilyn Monroe, LLC ("MMLLC") and CMG  
22 Worldwide, Inc.

23 <sup>2</sup> Plaintiffs try to introduce 17 new exhibits they failed to produce in response  
24 to Defendants' Requests for Production of Documents. The new evidence does not  
25 bear on the Court's question and is largely inadmissible and incompetent to establish  
26 Plaintiffs' ownership of in Marilyn Monroe's right of publicity ("RoP"). See  
27 Objections to the Newly Submitted Evidence, submitted herewith. The Court did not  
28 authorize submission of new evidence; all evidence in opposition was required to  
have been filed by the date Plaintiffs' opposition was due. *Ashton-Tate Corp. v. Ross*,  
916 F.2d 516, 519-520 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1990). The Court should not consider any of this new  
untimely evidence.

1 determine whether those states permit testators to bequeath property they do not own  
 2 at the time of death. This inquiry resolves what "after-acquired" property may be  
 3 disposed by will.

4 Only if Ms. Monroe died a domiciliary of California and California permits  
 5 testamentary dispositions of assets not owned at time of death, would a construction  
 6 of Cal. Civ. Code §3344.1 be necessary. The Court must determine whether the  
 7 statute has retroactive effect to vest, in persons long dead, a capacity to convey  
 8 property not owned, known, anticipated or expected by them at the time of their  
 9 death. If Ms. Monroe was domiciled in New York when she died, Cal.Civ.Code  
 10 §3344.1 is irrelevant. California does not extend post-mortem RoP to persons whose  
 11 domiciliary state at time of death, such as New York, does not extend such rights.  
 12 *Lord Simon Cairns v. Franklin Mint Co.*, 292 F.3d 1139 (9th Cir. 2002).

13 As shown more fully hereafter, summary judgment should be granted to  
 14 Defendants because Marilyn Monroe's will disposes only of property she owned "at  
 15 the time of death." Moreover, Marilyn Monroe, could not have conveyed by will,  
 16 under New York or California law, rights she did not own.<sup>3</sup> After-acquired property  
 17 provisions of California and New York law address only property acquired after the  
 18 making of the will and owned at death, not after death of the testator.<sup>4</sup> Summary

19  
 20 <sup>3</sup> It is undisputed that the laws of New York, Indiana or California did not  
 21 extend a RoP to deceased persons in 1962, when Ms. Monroe died, and New York  
 22 does not to this day. *Frosh, supra*; *Lugosi v. Universal Pictures*, 25 Cal.3d 813, 160  
 23 Cal.Rptr. 323, 603 P.2d 425, 10 A.L.R.4th 1150(1979). California Civil Code section  
 3344.1 was not in effect at the time of Ms. Monroe's death, having first been enacted  
 in 1984. Indiana law Section 32-36-1 was enacted in 1994.

24 <sup>4</sup> Indiana, New York and California look to the domicile of a person to  
 25 determine what property rights exist. The evidence of record overwhelmingly  
 26 establishes that Ms. Monroe remained domiciled in New York at the time of her  
 27 death. Whether a RoP survived her passing must be decided applying New York law.  
 28 New York has the most significant interest in the determination, Ms. Monroe having  
 lived there, paid taxes there and having passed her probate through its courts.

Finally, even if Ms. Monroe was a California domiciliary at the time of her  
death, Cal. Civ. Code §3344.1 has no retroactive effect, does not vest any rights in  
estates of deceased persons, and did not change well-established rules of probate law  
which do not allow decedents to transfer property in which they had no expectancy at  
the time of their death.<sup>6</sup> Consequently, Plaintiffs could not have received any post-  
mortem RoP by a transfer effective 22 years before the rights came into existence.

<sup>5</sup> Plaintiffs have produced no evidence of any change in Ms. Monroe's intended  
domicile. In addition to Plaintiffs' judicial admissions that have been shown,  
Defendants have produced statements by Ms. Monroe which reflect her intent to  
make New York her permanent home, including through retirement. The locus of  
Ms. Monroe's life remained in New York until the time she died. It is uncontroverted  
that Ms. Monroe paid state taxes in New York and in California as a non-resident,  
and that her lawyer, trustee and executor of the estate, accountant, checking accounts,  
business, acting coach and beneficiary of the residuary clause were all in New York.

<sup>6</sup> Plaintiffs also improperly seek to have the Indiana RoP law have retroactive  
effect, when no such provision was included in the statute. Plaintiffs construction of  
the Indiana statute would interfere with the dormant Copyright clause, the Commerce  
clause, the right to contract and effect an unlawful taking from persons who enjoyed  
free right to use the indicia of Ms. Monroe's persona which was unprotected for 32  
years before implementation of Indiana's statute.

Plaintiffs rely upon the unpublished interlocutory trial court decision in *Scalf v.*  
*Lake County Convention and Visitors Bureau, Inc.*, Cause No. 45D10-0406-PI-00093  
(Lake County Superior Ct. Indiana, filed Jan. 9, 2005) as authority for the proposition  
that the Indiana RoP statute should be applied retroactively, (See Opposition at 6, n.4)  
despite conceding that "it is an interlocutory order and therefore not binding authority  
here." *Id.* Under Indiana law, a conclusion of law by a Circuit Court from which no  
appeal was taken is not binding precedent and it is improper for counsel to cite to  
such authority. *Harford Accident & Indemnity Co. v. Dana Corp.*, 690 N.E.2d 285,  
294 n.10. Moreover, *Scalf v. Lake County* does not cite or discuss the rule against  
retroactive applications of statutes in Indiana or attempt to distinguish *Chestnut*,  
*supra*. *Scalf* should not be considered.

5 To survive summary judgment Plaintiffs must show that: (1) Ms. Monroe  
6 intended to convey by will all property she owned, including after-acquired property  
7 rather than just property she owned at death; (2) the laws of her domicile state at  
8 death (New York or California) permit disposition by will of property a testator may  
9 be entitled to after death; (3) Ms. Monroe was a domicile of California when she died;  
10 (4) Cal.Civ.Code §3344.1 retroactively granted Ms. Monroe a RoP and the right to  
11 transfer it by will; (5) Ms. Monroe's will did in fact legally convey an unforseeable  
12 future interest to residuary beneficiaries; (6) the residuary beneficiaries have lawfully  
13 transferred the RoP they received to Plaintiffs. As shown herein, Plaintiffs fail to  
14 meet this burden.

15  
16 **II. MS. MONROE'S WILL REFLECTS AN INTENT TO BEQUEATH  
17 ONLY WHAT SHE OWNED AT THE TIME OF HER DEATH**

18 The relevant provision of Ms. Monroe's will provided:

19 SIXTH, All the rest, residue and remainder of my estate, both real and  
20 personal, of whatever nature and wheresoever situate, *of which I shall  
21 die seized or possessed or to which I shall in any way be entitled, or  
22 over which I shall possess any power of appointment by will at the time  
23 of my death*, including any lapsed legacies, I give, devise and bequeath  
24 as follows:....

25 Plaintiffs improperly construe the "*to which I shall in any way be entitled*"  
26 phrase of the "*of which I shall die seized or possessed or to which I shall in any way  
27 be entitled*" clause, as not being limited by the "*of which I shall die*" limitation  
28 within that clause. Plaintiffs' argument depends on this construction because they

29 <sup>7</sup> Plaintiffs' claims also fail because they have not established a chain of title  
30 vesting any rights, which may exist, in Plaintiffs.



First, the entire clause must construed together and every part of it, including its punctuation must be given effect.<sup>8</sup> The "*to which I shall in any way be entitled*" phrase must be read together with the "*of which I shall die seized or possessed or*" phrase because there is no comma between them. The phrase "*to which I shall in any way be*" is clearly an adverb to the term "*entitled*" since it is merely prepositional to "*entitled*." Eliminating adverbs, the residuary clause conveys only all property "*of which I [Marilyn Monroe] shall die seized or possessed or ...entitled.*" Consequently, the property which Ms. Monroe sought to transfer by the residuary clause is that "*of which I shall die entitled*" at the time of her death.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>8</sup> *The People ex Rel. Casey Gwinn*, 83 Cal.App.4th 759 (2000) ("Commas are used to separate items in a list. (Random House, Dict. of the English Usage, Unabridged Ed. (1966) p. 295.) Their presence or absence in a statute is a factor to be considered in its interpretation." citing *Board of Trustees v. Judge*, 50 Cal.App.3d 920, 928, fn. 4 (1975); see also *Duncanson-Harrelson Co. v. Travelers Indemnity Co.*, 209 Cal.App.2d 62, 66 (1962).)

<sup>9</sup> In this case the qualifying limitation "*of which I shall die*" applies to and modifies all following verbs, *seized, possessed and entitled* because the modifier and the verbs it modifies are set apart from the rest of the residuary clause by commas. See *Board of Trustees v. Judge*, *supra.*; *Wholesale Tobacco Dealers Bureau, etc. v. National etc.Co.*, 11 Cal.2d 634, 659 (1938), 82 P.2d 3. ("When several words are followed by a clause which is applicable as much to the first and other words as to the last, the natural construction of the language demands that the clause be read as applicable to all."); 2A Singer, Sutherland Statutes and Statutory Construction (6th ed. 2000) Intrinsic Aids § 47.33, p. 373; *U.S. v. Mottolo*, 605 F.Supp. 898 (D.C.N.H. 1985)("The Court reads the two "claims" and "damages" phrases as independent clauses which are separated by the conjunctive "nor", set off by commas, and modified by the limiting, dependent clause "more than three years...." Thus, the first portion of § 9612(d) should be read as follows:

(d) No claim may be presented./ nor may an action be commenced for damages under this title./ unless that claim is presented or action



associates") and *ejusdem generis* (literally, "of the same kind") provide rules for construction to provisions with listed words and phrases. *Noscitur a sociis* means that a word may be defined by its accompanying words and phrases, since "ordinarily the coupling of words denotes an intention that they should be understood in the same general sense." (2A Sutherland, Statutory Construction (6th ed.2000) § 47.16, pp. 268-269, fn. omitted.) *Ejusdem generis* means that where general words follow specific words, or specific words follow general words in an enumeration, the general words are construed to embrace only things similar in nature to those enumerated by the specific words. *Harris v. Capital Growth Investors XIV*, 52 Cal.3d 1142, 1160 & fn. 7(1991); *Engelmann v. State Bd. of Education*, 2 Cal.App.4th 47, 57, fn. 11(1991). A court should determine the meaning of each by reference to the others, giving preference to an interpretation that uniformly treats items similar in nature and scope.<sup>10</sup>

commenced within three years from the date of the discovery of the loss or the date of enactment of this Act, whichever is later.... [Stops emphasized.]

The phrase "for damages" is contained wholly within the second independent clause and therefore modifies only its direct antecedent within the independent clause, the phrase "an action".)

<sup>10</sup> *Kelly v. Methodist Hospital of So. California*, 22 Cal.4th 1108, 1121(2000); *In the Matter of the Estate Nielsen, Dunn v. Nielsen*, 204 Cal.App.2d 357 (1962)(citing *Estate of Marin*, 69 Cal.App.2d 147, 150-151. "In referring to the use of the expression, personal property, in a will it is stated in 3 Page on Wills 3rd Ed.1941, sec. 964, p. 45: 'A gift of personal property in general terms together with an enumeration of certain classes of personal property is generally held to be limited to articles of the classes which are enumerated specifically.'"); *In re Welsh's Estate*, 89 Cal.App.2d 43(1949)("Under the maxim '*ejusdem generis*' the whole of the following portions of the paragraph, not specifically pointed to something else, would refer back to the burdens to be lifted from the bequest of paragraph Nine. Especially is this true because the paragraph (Ten) is all in one sentence. *Gist v. Craig*, 142 S.C. 407; *Noble v. Kisker*, 134 Fla. 233.")

Applying these rules of construction, the residuary clause of Ms. Monroe's will must be read to limit the property "to which I shall in any way be entitled" to such property as she died entitled. This is also consistent with the next clause conveying property over which she had a power of appointment "at the time of [her] death."

Third, in construing the intent of a testator one must look to the entire document. Nothing in Ms. Monroe's will indicates any intent to convey any property she did not own at death. To the contrary, apart from the specific bequeaths in clauses Fourth and Fifth, the only clause which addresses disposition of property is the Sixth clause, the residuary clause. In that clause, Ms. Monroe repeatedly uses possessive terms such as "my estate," "of which I shall die seized or possessed or ... entitled," and "over which I possess any power of appointment by will at the time of my death." These terms establish her intent to transfer by will only that which she owned at time of her death.<sup>11</sup> "[A] will ordinarily speaks from the time of the death of the testator." 40 Cyc. 1424; *Voorhis v. Otterson*, 66 N. J. Eq., 172, 57 A. 428.

There is no reference or suggestion that she sought to include any future interest or expectancy which would not mature into either actual ownership, seizure, possession, entitlement or a power of appointment by the time of her death.<sup>12</sup> Since

<sup>11</sup> Ca. Probate Code § 6101 identifies Property which may be disposed of by will and limits such dispositions to property actually owned by the testator: A will may dispose of the following property:  
(a) The testator's separate property; (b) The one-half of the community property that belongs to the testator under Section 100; (c) The one-half of the testator's quasi-community property that belongs to the testator under Section 101.

<sup>12</sup> The testator must clearly intend to make a devise specific. *In re Loescher's Estate*, 133 Cal. App. 2d 589(4th Dist. 1955) Words specifically identifying the property and indicative of possession are necessary in the making of a specific devise. *In re Jones' Estate*, 60 Cal. App. 2d 795(1st Dist. 1943). The words "my," "in my name," or similar qualifying words indicate an intention to make a specific devise. *Id.* Marilyn Monroe could not have intended to make a bequest of a right she did not own

Fourth, "[t]estamentary disposition...is controlled by the law in effect as of the date of death." *Dept. Of Health Services v Fontes*, 169 Cal.App.3d 301, 305 (1985). Prior to repeal, former Cal. Probate Code § 126, provided:

Except as provided by Sections 1386.1 and 1386.2 of the Civil Code relating to powers of appointment, a devise of the residue of the testator's real property, or ***a bequest of the residue of the testator's personal property, passes all of the real or personal property, as the case may be, which he was entitled to devise or bequeath at the time of his death,*** not otherwise effectually devised or bequeathed by his will.[Emphasis added]

As held in *In re Smith*, 14 Misc.2d 205 (1958), 177 N.Y.S .2d 280, where this testator declared his intent "to dispose of all property, which I am entitled to dispose of by will," as did Ms. Monroe, the will could not include the piece of real property the testator did not yet own at the time of the drafting of the will.

Fifth, in will constructions, it is presumed the deceased knew as a matter of law that he had no power to dispose of property he did not own and over which he had no power of disposition. *In re Resler's Estate*, 43 Cal.2d 726, 732-733(1955). As explained in *In re Estate of Moore*, 62 Cal.App. 265:

The last sentence of the third paragraph of the will recites 'It is my intention to dispose of all property over which I have the power of testamentary disposition.' When read in the light of the constructional

and did not even have any expectancy of owning at the time of her death.

<sup>13</sup> A future estate is created when the disposition creating it becomes legally effective. See N.Y. EPTL 7-1.14 through 7-1.18. Upon death, any mere expectancy or inchoate interest ceases and is terminated. *McKay v. Laurinson*, 204 Cal. 557, 569-70 (1928).

1 preference stated in the *Moore* case, this sentence supports the  
2 conclusion that the testator did not intend to dispose of any property over  
3 which he did not have the power of testamentary disposition.  
4 Where the testator describes his property in general terms, that is, "all of my  
5 property," or "all of my estate," he will be presumed to have intended to dispose of  
6 only that interest which was subject to his power of testamentary disposition. *In re*  
7 *Wolfe's Estate*, 48 Cal.2d 570 (1957).

8 In her residuary clause, Ms. Monroe used the terms "all the rest, residue and  
9 remainder of my estate" "of which I shall be seized, possessed or...entitled" and "over  
10 which I shall possess any power of appointment at the time of my death." She  
11 intended thereby to transfer all which she had power to transfer at the time of her  
12 death, and no more.

13 Cal. Prob. Code § 21117 titled "At Death Transfers," subsection (f) defines a  
14 residuary gift as "a transfer of property that remains after all specific and general gifts  
15 have been satisfied." Any RoP created in 1985 could not have "remained" "after all  
16 specific and general gifts have been satisfied" in 1962. "An estate must be distributed  
17 among heirs and distributees according to the law as it exists at the time of death of  
18 the decedent." *Ware v. Beach*, 322 P.2d 635, 639 (Okla. 1958).<sup>14</sup>

19 In sum, Ms. Monroe's will conveyed only property she owned at death.

20 **III. MS. MONROE DID NOT HAVE THE LEGAL CAPACITY TO**  
21 **BEQUEATH PROPERTY SHE DID NOT OWN AT THE TIME OF HER**  
22 **DEATH UNDER THE LAWS OF NEW YORK OR CALIFORNIA**

23 Cal. Civ. Code §671 defines the "Capacity to Own" as:

24 Any person, whether citizen or alien, may take, hold, and dispose of  
25 property, real or personal within this state.

26 A deceased person is not a natural person capable of taking or holding property.

27 <sup>14</sup> Plaintiffs' attempt to distinguish *Ware* are unavailing; Cal.Civ.Code §3344.1  
28 cannot retroactively grant rights to Ms. Monroe any more than the 1950 congressional  
statute in *Ware* could retroactively grant statutory election rights to American Indians.

1 Gifts, grants, bequests and devises to persons lapse or, if subject to anti-  
2 lapse statutes, pass to the devisee's familial heirs. Cal. Probate Code § 21114  
3 So clear and well established is the principle that dead people cannot receive or  
4 own property that "civil death" was a phrase used to describe the state of a person  
5 who, though possessing natural life, has lost all his civil rights, and as to them is  
6 considered dead. Black's Law Dictionary, Fourth Edition, 1951.<sup>15</sup>

7 "No matter what the provisions of the will are when probated, it confers no  
8 rights in property not owned by the testator at the time of her death." *Conlee v.*  
9 *Conlee*, 269 N.W. 259, 263 (Iowa 1936). A person cannot "make a post-mortem  
10 distribution of property which at the time of his death he does not own or in which he  
11 has no right, legal or equitable." *In re estate of Braman*, 258 A.2d 492,494 (Pa.  
12 1969). A testator may not "validly dispose of non-existent property." *In re Buzza's*  
13 *Estate*, 194 Cal.App.2d 598 (1961)

14 It is beyond debate that Ms. Monroe had no capacity to "take or hold property"  
15 in 1985, 22 years after she ceased to enjoy natural life; she was not just "civilly  
16 dead," she was also naturally dead. Any property which she would have been entitled  
17 to in 1985, assuming Cal. Civ. Code §3344.1 granted her a right (and as is shown  
18 hereafter, it does not), would have fallen to her familial heirs according to statutory  
19 schemes of disposition and not according to any residuary clause in her will.

20 Ms. Monroe lacked the legal capacity to bequeath property she did not own at

21  
22  
23 <sup>15</sup> Black's goes on to explain:  
24 The "civil death" spoken of in the books, is of two kinds: (1) Where  
25 there is a total extinction of the civil rights and relations of the party, so  
26 that he can neither take nor hold property, and his heirs succeed to his  
27 estate in the same manner as if he were really dead, or the estate is  
28 forfeited to the crown. (2) Where there is an incapacity to hold property,  
or to sue in the king's courts, attended with forfeiture of the estate to the  
crown. *Id.*



Ms. Monroe Did Not Own or Forsee, and Thus Could Not Convey, a Future Interest in Life Insurance in a RoP Created by Cal. Civ. Code §3344.1, Created 22 Years after Her Death

A gift or devise to a person or of a right not then in existence creates a future estate. *Rasquin v. Hamersley* (2 Dept. 1912) 152 A.D. 522, *aff'd* 208 N.Y. 630. A future estate is created when the disposition creating it becomes legally effective. "A future interest is contingent, whilst the person in whom, or the event upon which, it is limited to take effect remains uncertain." Ca. Civ. Code § 695. An interest created by will becomes effective upon death of the testator. See EPTL 7-1.14 through 7-1.18. The principle applies equally to personal property. *Tallman v. Tallman*, 3 Misc. 465 (1893).

Mere anticipations and hopes, however, when not coupled with a legal interest, are not deemed to be "expectant estates." *Robinson v. New York Life Ins. & Trust Co.*, 75 Misc. 361 (1911); *See, also, Edwards v. Varick*, 5 Denio 664 (1846); *Ward v. Ward*, 131 F. 946 (C.C.N.Y. 1904), affirmed 145 F. 1023, *cert. den.* 27 S.Ct. 796.

Cal. Civ. Code: §700 provides that a "a mere possibility... is not deemed an interest of any kind."

[A] General residuary clause carries every interest, known or unknown, immediate or remote, unless such interest is clearly excluded. However, these principles do not apply until it has been demonstrated that the

<sup>16</sup> As a throw away argument, Plaintiffs claim that Ms. Monroe might have had a limited post-mortem right of publicity based on her lifetime commercial exploitation with respect to specific products or services and suggesting it might be descendible, referring to *Lugosi v. Universal Pictures*, 25 Cal.3d 813 (1979). Plaintiffs Supplemental Brief 15:fn 8. Prior to 1985, RoP were recognized as drawing their source from rights of privacy and were personal rights which, unlike property rights, did not survive the death of the person involved. If any limited rights survived the death of the personality based on lifetime commercial exploitation with respect to specific products or services, they would have been in the nature of trademark rights, not a survivable, descendible or alienable property rights. J. Thomas McCarthy, The Rights of Publicity and Privacy (2d.ed.2006)

*Estate of Braman*, 238 A.2d at 494-495.

As to after-acquired property, "intention" to convey means that the testator foresaw "the possibility of his becoming possessed of other property." 1 Davids, New York Law of Wills s 566, p. 924.

Since Ms. Monroe could not have "foreseen" the possibility of being possessed of a post mortem RoP 22 years after she died, she could not have had the requisite intention to convey such a property right.<sup>17</sup>

**B. After-acquired Property Refers to Property Acquired after Execution of the Will and Before Death and Not to Property Ostensibly Acquired after Death**

A will is an instrument in which a qualified person legally and intentionally directs the disposition of his or her property, to become effective only at his or her death. It is ambulatory, i.e., ineffective during the testator's life. See *Tennant v. John Tennant Memorial Home*, 167 C. 570, 577 (1914); *In re Grogg Bkrtcy.*, 295 B.R. 297 (C.D.Ill. 1973) ("While the will was probated after the commencement of this suit, it, when probated, spoke as of the death of the testator ... [T]he property, in the eyes of the law, vested in her at the time of the testator's death.")

In the absence of a contrary intent, the will must be interpreted as applying to all property, including after-acquired property owned by him at the date of his death. *Matter of Gernon*, 35 Misc.2d 12 (1962) ("Even though title to the after-acquired property had not passed prior to decedent's death, he had an equitable title in said land

<sup>17</sup> Even if viewed as a future interest, Ms. Monroe's conveyance of a RoP, which came into existence 22 years after her death, would fail under the Rule against Perpetuities. The Rule against Perpetuities measures validity from the time of creation of the future interest, which in this case is the date of her death. *Tallman*, *supra*. Since the future interest allegedly created by §3344.1 did not come into being within a life in being and 21 years, such an conveyance would violate the Rule.



4 New York law provides: "Unless the will provides otherwise, a disposition by  
5 the testator of all his property passes all of the property he was entitled to dispose of  
6 at the time of his death." N.Y.E.P.T.L. § 3-3.1. California law was similar in repealed  
7 Ca. Probate Code § 121: "Any estate, right, or interest in lands acquired by the  
8 testator after the making of his will, passes thereby and in like manner as if title  
9 thereto was vested in him at the time of making the will, unless the contrary  
10 manifestly appears by the will to have been the intention of the testator."<sup>18</sup>

11 Plaintiffs contend, without citation to any authority, that property can be  
12 lawfully acquired by a testator after death. They try to distinguish and discredit the  
13 case cited by the Court, *In re Estate of Braman, supra*. However, even Plaintiffs'  
14 admit that, *Braman* correctly construed means that Ms. Monroe did not have even an  
15 expectancy of a 1985 created RoP in 1962. Plaintiffs argue that "there is no logical,  
16 statutory, or policy reason here why Marilyn Monroe's publicity rights should fall to  
17 intestacy, rather than passing through her will during probate." Plaintiffs'  
18 Supplemental Brief 7:27-8:2. Plaintiffs are wrong; Cal.Civ.Code §3344.1 was  
19 explicitly passed to benefit the families of deceased personalities where those  
20 personalities have predeceased the statute's enactment not the legatees of a deceased  
21 personality. Applying the rule of *Braman* effects the objectives of Cal.Civ.Code  
22 §3344.1. Even under the cases cited by Plaintiffs, *In re Albert*, 445 N.Y.S.2d 359

23  
24 <sup>18</sup> The statutes governing wills, Cal. Prob. C. §6100 et seq., apply to cases  
25 where the testator died on or after January 1, 1985; prior law applies where the  
26 testator died before January 1, 1985. Cal. Prob. C. §6103. Current Cal. Prob. C. §  
27 21105. Transfer of property by will; after-acquired property "Except as otherwise  
28 provided in Sections 641 and 642, a will passes all property the testator owns at  
death, including property acquired after execution of the will."

1 (Sup.Ct. 1981) and in *re Brunet*, 34 ca.2d 105 (1949), the RoP would go to Ms.  
2 Monroe's familial heirs, not the heirs of the residuary beneficiaries. Ms. Monroe  
3 predeceased the enactment of §3344.1 and if any rights were conveyed to her by that  
4 statute, they would have run to her heirs, not the heirs of her legatees under her will.

5 Plaintiffs claim that their submissions in New York probate proceedings  
6 reflected and confirm their ownership of valid RoP in Marilyn Monroe's likeness and  
7 name, and their earnings therefrom. Nothing could be further from the truth.  
8 Plaintiffs never disclosed, or had assessed for tax purposes, their claimed RoP. No  
9 asset statement filed with the court reflects Ms. Monroe's RoP asset and the Tax  
10 Assessor's final accounting does not show either the asset of any associated tax. One  
11 would think that an asset generating over \$16 million dollars during the period of  
12 probate would have triggered a probate tax that the State of New York and the  
13 Federal Government would have been interested in; instead, Plaintiffs led the  
14 authorities to believe that the income was from licensing associated with Ms.  
15 Monroe's movie projects.

16 Similarly Plaintiffs' argument their historical licensing income from RoP  
17 shows that they own the RoP as an "after-acquired" property during probate. Rents,  
18 royalties, profits, interest, dividends and even license fees paid into an estate after the  
19 testator's death are not "after-acquired" property; they are simply accumulations from  
20 assets already owned by the testator at time of death. Revenues from Ms. Monroe's  
21 movie projects are incident to her property owned at death but Marilyn Monroe did  
22 not own a post-mortem right of publicity when she died and any license fees extracted  
23 from third parties through threats of suit asserting such non-existent rights are not  
24 lawfully acquired by the estate. Plaintiffs' suggestion that the New York Surrogate's  
25 Court's orders permitting distribution of unlawfully extorted license fees somehow  
26 legitimizes them and the rights asserted to obtain them is without legal, factual or  
27 common sense support. There is no evidence the New York Surrogate Court ever  
28

**C. Even If Ms. Monroe Is Deemed to Have Been Granted a RoP by Cal. Civ. Code §3344.1, the Anti-lapse Statutes Vest the Property in Her Familial Heirs**

Under the rule of Lapse, if a devisee predeceased the testator, the bequest fails. *In re Sullivan's Estate*, 31 Cal. App. 2d 527 (1939); *Bassett V. Salter*, 25 N.Y.S.2d 176 (1940)(Devising to predeceased persons was "a futile thing, for the fact that the devisees were already dead would have caused the devise to lapse.") California and New York anti-lapse statutes provide that if a bequest is made to a person who predeceases the testator, the bequest does not lapse but returns to the testator's residuary estate if so specified; otherwise the bequest passes to the devisee's heirs at law. *Estate of Haskell J. Dye*, 92 Cal.App.4th 966 (2001); *In the Matter of the Estate of Ida Goldberg*, 36 A.D.2d 631 (1971).

If the grant of a property right by Cal. Civ. Code §3344.1 is viewed as a bequest, it fails in conveying such a right to Ms. Monroe, who died 22 years earlier, it would pass under the Anti-lapse statute to her heirs at law, if any survived her. None did, and so the bequest lapses altogether.<sup>19</sup>

If the grant of a property right by Cal.Civ.Code §3344.1 is viewed as a statutory grant, Cal.Probate Code § 21114 provides that statutory transfers to designated persons, including a transferor, vest in the heirs of that person if she predeceases the grant.

Cal. Civ. Code §3344.1 includes a vesting provision, similar to the anti-lapse statute and Cal.Probate Code § 21114, setting forth that only familial heirs of deceased persons receive the RoP. Plaintiffs are not among the class of heirs who

<sup>19</sup> Marilyn Monroe was survived by her mother and a half sister; she had no children. However, both her mother and half sister died before the effective date of Cal. Civ. Code §3344.1, and neither left any known heirs.

Plaintiffs are not kindred to Ms. Monroe and she did not provide that her bequests to the residuary beneficiaries would run to their estates.

**IV. EVEN IF MS. MONROE DIED A CALIFORNIA DOMICILIARY, CAL. CIV. CODE §3344.1 DID NOT VEST ANY RIGHTS IN HER AND THE STATUTE HAS NO RETROACTIVE EFFECT**

**A. The Structure of California's Statute 3344.1 Shows That No Rights Were Conveyed to Persons Already Deceased as of the Implementation Date of That Section**

California's Civ. Code §3344.1 grants, to any person injured as a result thereof, a "right" to recover for uses of a deceased persons' indicia of persona, made in California without consent of persons identified by subdivision (c). Cal. Civ. Code §3344.1(a), (n). Being deceased, Ms. Monroe could never be the "person injured" by use of her persona and she cannot sue to recover for uses under §3344.1(a); she thus was not granted any rights under subdivision (a).

Subdivision (c) identifies the persons from whom permission is required. They are the persons to whom a transfer was made *before death* by the deceased person (subdivision (b)- by transfer) or the deceased person's transferees (subdivision (b)- by transfer or testamentary act), or *after death of the deceased person* by the familial heirs of the deceased person identified in subdivision (d), if no transfer was made by the deceased person while living.

A testamentary transfer has no effect until death and so a deceased person can never make a transfer *before death* by testamentary transfer. *Tennant v. John Tennant Memorial Home*, 167 Cal. 570, 577 (1914). Subdivision (b) allows a deceased

<sup>20</sup> The "right" recognized by the Indiana RoP statute, the right to sue, if received by her estate, and not lapsed by her predeceased status, then it would have been transferred by the laws of intestate succession of New York, the state which administered her property. (§32-36-1-16) Plaintiffs are not among the class of persons entitled to participate in intestate succession from Ms. Monroe.

Since Plaintiffs claim their rights through Ms. Monroe's residuary clause, and the will took effect *on her death* and *not before her death*, the residuary clause could not include any RoP granted by §3344.1(b). That subdivision unequivocally provides that the right vests in the person identified in subdivision (d) *"after the death of the deceased personality."* Cal.Civ.Code. §3344.1(b)<sup>22</sup>

Subdivision (e) provides that "the rights set forth in subdivision (a) shall terminate" if not transferred by the deceased person and the deceased person is *predeceased by all familial heirs*.

Subdivision (h) defines deceased personalities as those who died after January 1, 1915, but as shown herein, such predeceased persons obtained no rights to sue or transfer any right of publicity; their heirs under subdivision (d) were vested with such

<sup>21</sup> The Court mistakenly suggested in the Tentative Order of December 11, 2006 that a deceased personality could transfer the RoP "on or before death." Order at pg. 16. §3344.1(b) provides in its first clause that the RoP recognized are property rights. The second clause indicates they are transferable; the third clause indicates the rights are divisible; the fourth clause identifies permissible means of transfer; the fifth clause identifies who may make a transfer *before death* of the deceased personality; and the penultimate clause of §3344.1(b) identifies who may transfer the RoP *after the death* of the deceased personality. No provision of §3344.1(b) provides for transfer by the deceased personality *on death* by testamentary documents.

<sup>22</sup> Plaintiffs' contention that the RoP only pass by Subdivision (d) if the deceased personality "did not otherwise provide for their transfer by contract, trust or testamentary documents before death" is incorrect. As shown above, the deceased personality could not transfer by testamentary documents because such transfer would *not take effect before death* of the deceased personality, and no transfer by contract or trust could have been made by personalities who predeceased the effective date of the statute because *they would have had no legal or equitable interest to transfer*. Moreover, the statute recognizes that the right is divisible; if only a portion was contracted away by a deceased personality who acquired such right before dying and after the effective date of the statute, the untransferred balance would pass by Subdivision (d).



No part of §3344.1 vests any right in a deceased person, other than the right of alienability by contract provided by §3344.1(b).<sup>23</sup> No claim is made that Ms. Monroe contracted away her post-mortem RoP while she was alive. Certainly, Plaintiffs do not claim they acquired her post-mortem RoP by contract.

Testamentary disposition was available only to contractual transferees of deceased personalities alive on January 1, 1985 or thereafter, and the heirs of predeceased personalities who took under subdivision (d).<sup>24</sup>

The Legislative History of §3344.1 confirms that the statute was passed *for the benefit of the heirs of deceased personalities*, not for the deceased personalities themselves.<sup>25</sup> A letter dated August 31, 1984 to Governor Deukmejian from the author of the bill, Senator William Campbell requesting his signature on the bill stated:

Senate Bill 613 will take existing rights of publicity enjoyed by living celebrities under current law, and *extend them to their heirs for a period of 50 years beyond the death of the celebrity. I think it is very important that this right is given to heirs....* I believe that the heirs of a celebrity should be entitled to protect against offensive merchandising of their relatives' likeness or name. [Emphasis added]

<sup>23</sup> Defendants have previously shown that the Indiana ROP statute does not have a provision granting or vesting a property right in all "personalities"; it merely creates a right of action (a chose-in-action) for violations of such a right, if it exists. By contrast, § 201 of the Copyright Act establishes that "Copyright in a work protected under this title vests initially in the author or authors of the work..."; 35 U.S.C. 102 provides: "A person shall be entitled to a patent unless..." and California's RoP Statute includes such a vesting provision in 3344.1(b) to heirs of a deceased personality.

<sup>24</sup> California's legislature was aware of the fact that extending retroactive application to its RoP statute would violate due process and expressly avoided that pitfall. See, Decl. of Surjit P. Soni, Exh. 34.

<sup>25</sup> The Legislative History of Cal.Civ.Code §3344.1 was previously submitted by Defendants as Exhibit 34 to the Declaration of Surjit P. Soni.

1 The June 18, 1984 Assembly Committee on the Judiciary minutes confirm the intent  
2 to confer these rights upon heirs of the deceased personality and that the deceased  
3 personality *can only transfer the right inter vivos* and not by testamentary act,  
4 vesting automatically in specified familial heirs. The August 15, 1983 minutes  
5 include Staff Comments which also confirm that legislative intent:

6 Under his bill, a person's right of publicity would be transferred to his  
7 surviving spouse and children or grandchildren upon his death, *absent a*  
8 *contract entered into during his lifetime.*

9 Consequently, any right created by Cal. Civ. Code §3344.1 would have vested  
10 in any of Ms. Monroe's familial heirs who survived her. Ms. Monroe had no children  
11 and her mother died of congestive heart failure on March 11, 1984, at a nursing home,  
12 before the California statute invested the rights to sue and recover damages for use of  
13 Ms. Monroe's persona upon her. The rights therefore terminated. §3344.1(e).

#### 14 **B. California's Statute 3344.1 Has No Retroactive Effect**

15 The estate of an testator vests in the heirs or devisees at the time of the  
16 testator's death (Cal.Prob.Code. §7000), and the Legislature cannot divest it by the  
17 retroactive application of any subsequent law. *Estate of Wellings*, 197 C. 189, 195  
18 (1925); *In re Moynahan's Estate*, 158 Misc. 821 (1936) ("It is also beyond the  
19 province of the Legislature where property is vested by intestacy in one class of  
20 persons to attempt to divest their property rights and to substitute a different class.")

21 It is an accepted rule of statutory construction that, absent a clear indication to  
22 the contrary, a statute operates prospectively only. See *People v. Hayes*, 49 Cal.3d  
23 1260, 1274 (1989) (New statutes are "presumed to operate prospectively absent an  
24 express declaration of retroactivity or a clear and compelling implication that the  
25 Legislature intended otherwise.") Moreover, statutes that are substantive in nature,  
26 rather than procedural, may not be applied retroactively. *Wright v. City of Morro Bay*,  
27 144 Cal.App.4th 767 (2006).

28 The language of Cal.Civ.Code §3344.1(b) supports the prospective-only effect



1 of that subsection. *Chapman v. City of Garden Grove*, 165 Cal. App. 2d 794, 804-  
2 805 (1959). The verbs used in subsection (b), namely, “are,” “occurs,” and “vest”  
3 are in the present tense. The verbs of the other subsections of §3344.1 are also in the  
4 present tense except in subsection (c) which verbs in the present perfect tense  
5 (namely, “has been transferred” and “has occurred”). Even statutory verbs in the  
6 present perfect tense are ambiguous regarding retroactivity or prospectivity and thus  
7 support prospective-only application due to the presumption against retroactivity.  
8 *DiGenova v. State Board of Education*, 57 Cal. 2d 167, 175 (1962) (the statutory  
9 words “has been convicted” “can as readily be understood either as ‘has been  
10 convicted after the effective date of the act’ or as ‘has been convicted before or after  
11 the effective date of the act.’”); accord *Gutierrez v. De Lara*, 188 Cal. App. 3d 1575,  
12 1580 (1987).

13 Plaintiffs argue in Section III of their supplemental brief against the Court’s  
14 ruling in the December 11 Order, that §3344.1 (b) grants to persons who died before  
15 January 1, 1985, the right to pass the post-mortem RoP by testamentary disposition.  
16 Plaintiffs’ argument completely ignores the “long ... established” rule of statutory  
17 construction in California that “[a] statute may be applied retroactively only if it  
18 contains **express language of retroactivity** or if other sources provide a **clear and**  
19 **unavoidable implication** that the Legislature **intended** retroactive application.”  
20 (italics in original, emphasis in bold added) *McClung v. Employment Development*  
21 *Dept.*, 34 Cal.4th 467, 475 (2004) As explained in *McClung*:

22 A statute has retrospective effect when it substantially changes the legal  
23 consequences of past events.” [Citation.] In this case, applying the  
24 amendment to impose liability that did not otherwise exist would be a  
retroactive application because it would “attach[ ] new legal  
consequences to events completed before its enactment.

25 Accord, *Californians for Disability Rights v. Mervyn’s, LLC*, 39 Cal. 4th 223, 231  
26 (2006) (A statute is applied retroactively when the construction sought “change[s] the  
27 legal consequences of past conduct by imposing new or different liabilities based  
28

1 upon such conduct"). Plaintiff's statutory construction would be a retroactive  
2 application of subdivision (b) because the "legal consequences" of Marilyn Monroe's  
3 1962 residuary clause would be "changed." Moreover, the "past conduct" governed  
4 by subdivision (b) is the alienability of Marilyn Monroe's post-mortem right of  
5 publicity in 1962, the very issue in controversy here. *Tapia v Superior Court*, 53 Cal.  
6 3d 282, 291 (1991) (explaining the holding of *People v. Hayes, supra*). As the  
7 *McClung* court so aptly stated: "The amended statute defines the law for the future,  
8 but it cannot define the law for the past." *McClung*, 34 Cal.4th 473-474; see, also  
9 *Armijo v. Miles*, 127 Cal.App.4th 1405, 1411-1412 (2005) ("Our state's high court has  
10 long held that the retroactive application of a statute may be unconstitutional if it  
11 deprives an individual of a vested right without due process of law.") There is thus  
12 no application in subdivision (b) to testamentary dispositions of deceased persons  
13 who died before the effective date, January 1, 1985.

14 The Court in *Wright, supra*, held that the conclusive presumption (that a  
15 proposal to dedicate real property for public improvement was not accepted if certain  
16 conditions were satisfied) provided by statute which could not be applied to a  
17 dedication formally accepted by the City 20 years before its enactment. *Wright*, 144  
18 Cal.App.4th at 770-772. So to, the enactment of §3344.1, 22 years after Ms.  
19 Monroe's death, could not retrospectively grant her substantive rights to alienate  
20 property that had no legal existence for over 2 decades.

21 In *In re Cooper's Estate*, 73 Misc.2d 904 (1973), the New York Surrogate's  
22 Court considered the applicability of a new statute addressing the disposition of  
23 renounced bequests. The bequests passed after execution of the will and before the  
24 death of the testator but were renounced after his death. The Court held that the new  
25 statute could apply retroactively to wills executed before the effective date of the  
26 statute but not if the testator had died before the statute's effective date. Quoting  
27 *Estate of Miriam S. Schloessinger, Deceased*, 70 Misc.2d 206 (1972), it held:

1 The text of the statute contains no specification as to its applicability to  
2 wills drawn before or after the statute's effective date and neither does  
3 the statute make reference to the date of death of the testator. *Were the*  
4 *statute to operate retroactively upon the estates of persons who had*  
5 *died prior to the statute's effective date, a question of unconstitutional*  
6 *deprivation of property rights could arise inasmuch as upon the death*  
7 *of a testator persons benefiting under his will acquire property rights*  
8 *which are immune from legislative attack even though such rights be*  
9 *merely contingent in character.* [Emphasis added]

10 *In re Cooper's Estate*, 73 Misc.2d at 905-906. The rights of persons having an  
11 interest in an estate are fixed as of the date of death, and statutes "governing  
12 decedents' estates generally are not given a retrospective operation." *In re Estate of*  
13 *Uhl*, 33 A.D.3d 181 (2006)(citing, *Matter of Best*, 66 N.Y.2d 151, 157); *See also,*  
14 *Smith*, 118 Misc.2d at 170-172); *Dodin v. Dodin et al.*, 17 Misc. 35 (1896)(A law  
15 which changed the laws of succession to personal or real property would be  
16 applicable to persons living at the time of its enactment, as well as to those who came  
17 into being thereafter only.)

18 *Kudelko v. Dalessio*,--- N.Y.S.2d ---, 2006 WL 3490969(2006) held, in  
19 considering the applicability of a new statute creating a cause of action for Identity  
20 Theft that:

21 In general, when a statute creates a right of action where one did not  
22 previously exist, such a statute has only a prospective application;  
23 likewise, a law that attempts to retroactively create a liability in relation  
24 to a transaction where no liability previously existed is often found  
25 unconstitutional.

26 *See also, Logan v. Salvation Army*, 10 Misc.3d 756 (2005)("Where a new right of  
27 action is created, as here [to add the sexual orientation discrimination provision], the  
28 presumption is that it is prospective, not retroactive, unless there is clearly a contrary  
legislative intent.")

Plaintiffs argue that "this Court and devisees of deceased personalities who  
died before January 1, 1985 have applied the California statute [retroactively] in  
practice." Plaintiffs' Supplemental Brief at 3:2-15. Unlawful actions by others do not  
legitimize Plaintiffs' claims in this case.

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(C.D.Cal.2004), *aff'd*, 454 F.3d 975 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir 2006), as proof that §3344.1 should be applied retroactively. That case however never considered, mentioned nor discussed §3344.1, as even Plaintiffs admit, or whether Glenn Miller had an extant right of publicity capable of being licensed when it held the "1956 agreement is susceptible to only one reasonable interpretation-that it conveys both a trademark license and a license of Glenn Miller's publicity rights." That case turned on its own unique facts and its result is sustainable even without a valid right of publicity at the time of license because, as the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit noted, rights to use trademarks, copyrights and orchestral materials was sufficiently conveyed by the license. Furthermore, even under a right of publicity analysis, while no right of publicity existed in 1944 when Glenn Miller died, or in 1956 when the license was issued, the right to object to uses by defendants in that case vested in the familial heirs of Glenn Miller effective January 1, 1985, which were his wife and children. However, those very heirs had ratified defendants' right to use Glenn Miller's name and likeness in 1970, as apart of a settlement. Ultimately, the District Court's ruling, affirmed on appeal, turned on Plaintiffs' laches in asserting their claims.

Finally, even if Plaintiffs are correct and §3344.1 conferred a right of alienability upon Ms. Monroe 22 years after her death, Plaintiffs cannot take under the residuary clause of her will. Cal. Prob. C. §21114 provides:

If a statute or an instrument provides for transfer of a present or future interest to, or creates a present or future interest in, a designated person's "heirs," "heirs at law," "next of kin," "relatives," or "family," or words of similar import, the transfer is to the persons who would succeed to the designated person's intestate estate if the designated person died when the transfer is to take effect in enjoyment. For this purpose, the intestate estate is determined by the intestate succession law of the transferor's domicile.

The section requires that statutory interests created and granted to a "designated person" must pass to that person's intestate heirs if the "designated person" is dead when the interest is to take effect in enjoyment. By Plaintiffs' construction of

**V. PLAINTIFFS' RoP CLAIMS ALSO FAIL BECAUSE THEY HAVE NOT PRODUCED ANY EVIDENCE TO ESTABLISH A CHAIN OF TITLE RUNNING TO THEM**

As the Court noted in Footnote 24 of its Tentative Order dated December 11, 2006, Plaintiffs have not adduced sufficient evidence to raise a triable issue respecting Anna Strasberg's transfer of her purported interest in Marilyn Monroe's right of publicity to MMLLC.<sup>26</sup> That failure persists even with the additional declarations and documents submitted by Plaintiffs.<sup>27</sup>

As the Court noted in its Tentative Order, the Assignment of Member's Interest-Ms. Monroe LLC (Exh. B to the Decl. of Anna Strasberg), reveals that it is an assignment *to the Members*, Anna Strasberg and the Anna Freud Centre, of an interest in the LLC, i.e. establishing ownership shares of MMLLC, *not an assignment from the Members* to MMLLC of any RoP in the persona of Ms. Monroe. There is no documentary evidence of any transfer by Anna Strasberg and the

<sup>26</sup> Plaintiffs' claim that MMLLC has title to the RoP in Ms. Monroe and standing by virtue of 3 separate transfers: (1) the rights which allegedly passed to Lee Strasberg from the Will of Ms. Monroe; (2) the rights which allegedly passed to Anna Strasberg after the death of Lee Strasberg; and (3) the assignment of rights to MMLLC from Anna Strasberg and the Anna Freud Centre in 2001. See Opposition at 36:1-17.

<sup>27</sup> The Supplemental Decl. of Anna Strasberg and the documents she seeks to introduce are untimely and still do not meet the requirements of admissible evidence under Fed.R.Civ.P. Rule 56(e). See, Objections to Supplemental Decl. of Anna Strasberg filed concurrently.

2 There is also no documentary evidence provided of any actual transfer by the  
 3 Estate of Ms. Monroe of the ROP to Lee Strasberg, or his estate as substitute  
 4 beneficiary, or to Anna strasberg as beneficiary of Lee Strasberg's estate.<sup>29</sup> There is  
 5 no evidence of any transfer of the interests of Marianne Kris to the Anna Freud  
 6 Centre or from the Anna Freud Centre to MMLLC. Ms. Strasberg's declaration is  
 7 incompetent to establish these facts.

8 Plaintiffs have failed to meet their evidentiary burden of establishing that  
 9 MMLLC has standing to assert a ROP claim.<sup>30</sup> Plaintiffs have failed to produce any  
 10 admissible evidence to convince a reasonable juror that they own RoP. Summary  
 11 judgment must be granted to Defendants. *In re Brazier Forest Products, Inc.*, 921  
 12 F.2d 221, 223 (9th Cir. 1990); *Tokio Marine & Fire Inc. Co., Ltd. v. Kaisha*, 25 F.  
 13 Supp. 2d 1071, 1077 (C.D. Cal. 1997). Fed.R.Civ.P. 56(e); *Anderson v. Liberty*  
 14 *Lobby*, 477 U.S. 242, 252 (1986).

## 16 VI. CONCLUSION

17 Defendants motion for summary judgment should be granted in its entirety.

21 <sup>28</sup> Even if Ms. Strasberg could testify to a parol assignment of her interests to  
 22 MMLLC, she is not competent to testify to a parol assignment of rights from the  
 23 Anna Freud Centre. F.R.E. 602, 701, 702.

24 <sup>29</sup> Although Mrs. Strasberg has now belatedly produced a Surrogate Court  
 25 Order permitting transfer of the Estate's Intellectual Property Rights, such as they  
 26 may be, to the LLC, no evidence is provided that any such transfer ever took place.

27 <sup>30</sup> The California's Secretary of State Successor-in-interest database shows  
 28 competing and conflicting claims to ownership of the persona of Ms. Monroe which  
 have neither been removed, nor extinguished. See, Decl. of Surjit P. Soni, Exh. 33  
 and Request for Judicial Notice.



THE SONI LAW FIRM

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